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DASYCLADUS RAMOSUS—A NEW SPECIES OF
DASYCLADUS FROM INHACA ISLAND AND
PENINSULA, PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

by
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(With Plate II)

***Dasycladus ramosus* sp. nova** (*Fig. 1*).

Type specimen: Collected June 25th 1957, Chamberlain No. 1, British Museum Spirit Collection (Algae) No. 479.

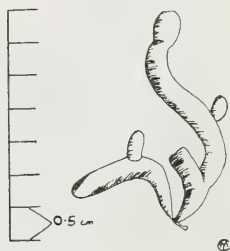


Fig. 1—*Dasycladus ramosus* sp. nova.
Drawing of the type specimen.

Alga parva atriviridis frondibus parce ramosis vermiformibus, 2—4 cm. longis, 4—8 mm. latis, ramo omni verticillis conferte superpositis induto; verticilla ramulis lateralibus numerosis plerumque 13—18 segmentatis composita et axem centralem seu siphonem undique obtegentia; ramulorum segmenta in seriebus tribus disposita; segmentum basale (seu primarium) oblongum medio plerumque leviter contractum $350\text{--}600\mu$ longum, $180\text{--}300\mu$ diametro, apice ferens segmenta mediana (seu secundaria) 4 anguste oblonga $300\text{--}480\mu$ longa, $120\text{--}260\mu$ diametro;

segmenta terminalia (seu tertiaria) 2—3 ex apice segmenti mediani exorta 140—360 μ longa, 90—160 μ diametro, apice rotundata.

Alga small with dark green sparingly branched worm-like fronds 2—4 cm. long, 4—8 mm. wide, each branch consisting of a central axis clothed with whorls of 13—18 segmented ramuli closely on top of one another; the ramuli with segments in three series; basal or primary segment oblong, often slightly pressed in at the middle, 350—600 μ long, 180—300 μ in diameter, bearing at its apex four middle or secondary segments which are narrowly oblong, 300—480 μ long, 120—260 μ in diameter; terminal or

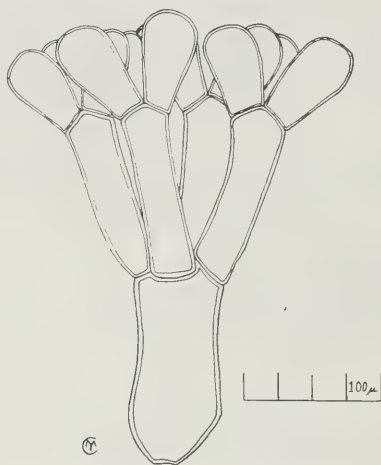


Fig. 2—*Dasycladus ramosus* sp. nova.
Single ramulus from the type specimen.

tertiary segments arising from the tip of each middle segment and 2—3 per segment, 140—360 μ long, 90—160 μ in diameter, with rounded apices (Fig. 2).

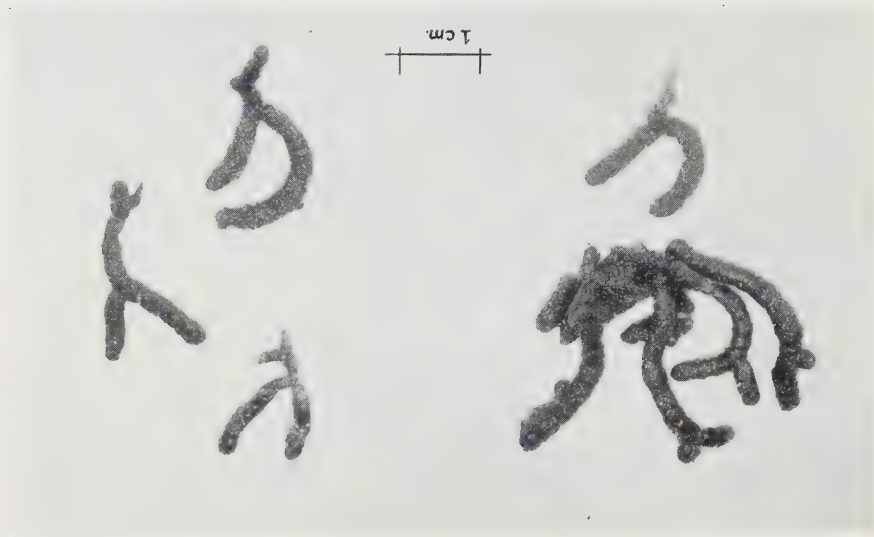
Type locality: Lighthouse rocks, Inhaca Island, Portuguese East Africa.

Distribution: Inhaca Island and Inhaca Peninsula, Portuguese East Africa.

This plant (Plate II) is found growing quite frequently in sand towards the bottom of intertidal rock pools at several localities on Inhaca Island and Peninsula. It grows in clumps and it is very noticeable that as soon as the clump is touched in the water, the water in the vicinity becomes bright green. No reference has been found to this happening

PLATE II.

Dasycladus ramosus sp. nova. (B. 335.)



with any other species of *Dasycladus*, but this may be because they have not been seen in the living state by the authors.

The plants collected in July 1956 are not reproducing, but there is no doubt from their general form and structure that they belong to the genus *Dasycladus*.

Only two other species of *Dasycladus* have so far been described of which by far the most common and widely distributed is the well known *Dasycladus vermicularis* (Scopoli) Krasser. *D. ramosus* differs from this species in being typically branched and because the terminal segments are widely rounded whereas they are always apiculate in *D. vermicularis*. The other species, *Dasycladus densus* Womersley was described from South Australia by Womersley in 1955.* *D. ramosus* differs from this species again in being branched and also in the shape of the basal segment. In *D. densus* this is markedly pear-shaped while in *D. ramosus* it is more or less rectangular or often with a slight depression in the middle. There was considerable variation in the size of the plant in those collected from the same locality but I have no doubt that all the *Dasycladus* material collected by me in the Inhaca area is of this species.

I gratefully acknowledge the help of Mr. W. T. Stearn of the British Museum who wrote the latin diagnosis.

*WOMERSLEY, H.B.S., "New Marine Chlorophyta from Southern Australia", *Pacific Sci.*, vol. 9, p. 387, 1955.